Hearing Aids

State(s):
- Idaho
- Montana
- Oregon
- Washington
- Other:

LOB(s):
- Commercial
- Medicare
- Medicaid

Commercial Policy- Oregon and Idaho

Clinical Guidelines are written when necessary to provide guidance to providers and members in order to outline and clarify coverage criteria in accordance with the terms of the Member’s policy. This Clinical Guideline only applies to PacificSource Health Plans, in Idaho and Oregon. Because of the changing nature of medicine, this list is subject to revision and update without notice. This document is designed for informational purposes only and is not an authorization or contract. Coverage determination are made on a case-by-case basis and subject to the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Member’s policy. Member policies differ in benefits and to the extent a conflict exists between the Clinical Guideline and the Member’s policy, the Member’s policy language shall control. Clinical Guidelines do not constitute medical advice nor guarantee coverage.

Background

Hearing aid coverage is specific to state and group size.

Hearing aids mean any non-disposable, wearable instrument or device designed to aid or compensate for impaired human hearing and any necessary ear mold, part, attachments or accessory for the instrument or device. Hearing aids include any amplifying device that does not produce as its output an electrical signal that directly stimulates the auditory nerve. For the purpose of this definition, such amplifying devices include air conduction and bone conduction devices, as well as those that provide vibratory input to the middle ear.

Bone Conduction Hearing Devices (aka bone anchored hearing systems/ aids) are surgically implanted devices that transfer sound by bone vibration.

SEE PacificSource Cochlear Implantation policy for coverage of cochlear implants

Criteria

Oregon:

I. Oregon Individual and Oregon Small Group (‘see Oregon Large Group mandates in the policy section titled “Oregon Large Group Plans”)

Coverage is limited to a maximum benefit of one hearing aid (any type) per ear every 36 months

A. Hearing Aids

PacificSource covers hearing aid devices listed below as medically necessary for any of the following:
Conductive hearing loss (external and middle ear blockage/damage/disease) that is unresponsive to medical/surgical interventions OR

Sensorineural hearing loss (inner ear cilia are damaged) OR

Mixed hearing loss (combination of conduction hearing loss and sensorineural hearing loss).

Covered devices used to amplify sound, including advanced signal processing technologies (e.g., digital signal processing, directional microphones, multiple channels, multiple memories):

- air conduction hearing aid device for the treatment of mild to profound hearing loss:
  - behind the ear (BTE) device, for mild to profound hearing loss
  - in the ear (ITE) device, for mild to moderate hearing loss
  - in the ear canal (ITC) device, for mild to moderate hearing loss
  - completely in the canal (CIC) device, for mild to moderate hearing loss
  - contralateral routing of sound (CROS) device, for single-sided hearing loss (i.e., bone conduction on the hearing side is normal).

- semi-implantable middle ear hearing aid device when ALL of the following criteria are met:
  - age 18 or older
  - moderate to severe sensorineural hearing loss
  - evidence of a medical condition precluding use of an air conduction aid
  - absence of middle ear disease

B. Bone Anchored and Bone Conduction Hearing Devices
   Must meet MCG A-0564: Hearing Aids, Bone Anchored and Bone Conduction guideline and be over 5 years old

C. Transcutaneously worn Bone Anchored or Bone Conduction Hearing Aid for children under 5 years of age
   Must meet MCG A-0564: Hearing Aids, Bone Anchored and Bone Conduction guideline and be under 5 years old

Application of a fully or partially-implantable bone anchored hearing aid utilizing a headband or Softband is considered medically necessary as an alternative to fully- or partially-implantable bone conduction hearing aid or air conduction hearing aid

D. Middle Ear Implantable and Semi-implantable Hearing Systems
   Must meet MCG A-0404: Middle Ear Hearing Aids, Implantable and Semi-Implantable guideline

E. Ear Molds and Replacement Ear Molds
   Ear molds and replacements ear molds are covered up to 4x per year per ear.

F. Over-the-counter hearing assistive devices
Hearing assistive technology systems are covered for members younger than 19 years of age, every 36 months, when necessary for appropriate amplification of hearing loss. (eg. frequency modulation systems, hearing loop, etc.)

G. Batteries

One box of replacement batteries are covered per year for each hearing aid.

**II. Oregon Large Group Plans**
The following mandates apply to Oregon Large Group Plans only:

Coverage is limited to a maximum benefit of one hearing aid per ear every 36 months for members 18 years of age and younger and 19-25 (if enrolled in school)

A. Hearing Aids

- One hearing aid per hearing impaired ear every 36 months or more frequently if modifications to an existing hearing aid will not meet the needs of a member who is 18 years of age or younger or is 19 to 25 years of age (enrolled in a secondary school or an accredited educational institution).
- One box of replacement batteries per year for each hearing aid.

B. Ear Molds and Replacement Ear Molds

Ear molds are covered for the following:
- Members younger than 8 years of age are covered for four ear molds per plan year
- Members 8 to 18 years of age or are 19-25 (enrolled in a secondary school or accredited educational institution are covered for one ear mold per plan year

C. Hearing assistive devices

Hearing assistive technology systems are covered for members younger than 19 years of age, every 36 months, when necessary for appropriate amplification of the hearing loss. (eg. hearing loop, frequency modulation system ect.)

**Idaho**

**Idaho Individual, Small Group, Large Group Plans:**

A. Hearing Aids

Member must be age 26 years or younger
Limit of one hearing aid per hearing impaired ear every 36 months
45 speech therapy visits over 12 months post initiation of a hearing device

B. Bone Anchored and Bone Conduction Hearing Devices

Must meet MCG A-0564: Hearing Aids, Bone Anchored and Bone Conduction guideline and be over 5 years old.

C. Transcutaneously worn Bone Anchored or Bone Conduction Hearing Aid for children under 5 years of age.

Must meet MCG A-0564: Hearing Aids, Bone Anchored and Bone Conduction guideline and be
under 5 years old

Application of a fully or partially-implantable bone anchored hearing aid utilizing a headband or Softband is considered medically necessary as an alternative to fully- or partially-implantable bone conduction hearing aid or air conduction hearing aid

D. Middle Ear Implantable and Semi-implantable Hearing Systems

Must meet MCG A-0404: Middle Ear Hearing Aids, Implantable and Semi-implantable guideline

Coding Information

CPT codes

69714 Implantation, Osseointegrated Implant Temporal Bone; W/O Mastoidectomy
69715 Implantation, Osseointegrated Implant, Temporal Bone; W/Mastoidectomy
69717 Replacement, Osseointegrated Implant, Temporal Bone; W/O Mastoidectomy
69718 Replacement, Osseointegrated Implant, Temporal Bone; W/Mastoidectomy

HCPC codes

L8625 External recharging system for battery for use with cochlear implant or auditory osseointegrated device, replacement only, each
L8690 Auditory osseointegrated device, includes all internal and external components
L8691 Auditory osseointegrated device, external sound processor, excludes transducer/actuator, replacement only, each
L8693 Auditory osseointegrated device abutment, any length, replacement only
L8694 Auditory osseointegrated device, transducer/actuator, replacement only, each
S2230 Implantation of magnetic component of semi-implantable hearing device on ossicles in middle ear
V5014 Repair/modification of a hearing aid
V5030 Hearing aid, monaural, body worn, air conduction
V5040 Hearing aid, monaural, body worn, air conduction
V5050 Hearing aid, monaural, in the ear
V5060 Hearing aid, monaural, behind the ear
V5070 Glasses, air conduction
V5080 Glasses, bone conduction
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>V5095</td>
<td>Semi-implantable middle ear hearing prosthesis</td>
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<td>V5100</td>
<td>Hearing aid, bilateral, body worn</td>
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<td>V5120</td>
<td>Binaural, body</td>
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<tr>
<td>V5130</td>
<td>Binaural, in the ear</td>
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<td>V5140</td>
<td>Binaural, behind the ear</td>
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<td>V5150</td>
<td>Binaural, glasses (contained in a pair of glasses)</td>
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<td>V5170</td>
<td>Hearing aid, CROS, in-the-ear (includes both the receiver and the transmitter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5180</td>
<td>Hearing aid, CROS, behind-the-ear (includes both the receiver and the transmitter)</td>
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<td>V5190</td>
<td>Hearing aid, CROS, glasses (contained in pair of eyeglasses)</td>
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<td>V5210</td>
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V5259 Hearing aid, digital, binaural, ITC
V5260 Hearing aid, digital, binaural, ITE
V5261 Hearing aid, digital, binaural, BTE
V5262 Hearing aid, disposable, any type, monaural
V5263 Hearing aid, disposable, any type, binaural
V5264 Ear mold insert, not disposable, any type
V5265 Ear mold insert, Earmold/insert disposable, any type
V5298 Hearing aid, not otherwise classified

Definitions

Analog aids: convert sound waves into electrical signals, which are amplified. Analog/adjustable hearing aids are custom built to meet the needs of each user. The aid is programmed by the manufacturer according to the specifications recommended by the audiologist. Analog/programmable hearing aids have more than one program or setting. Analog aids are a relatively inexpensive option. However, analog hearing aids are being replaced by digital technology.

Audiometric testing: Diagnostic tests that evaluate the ability to hear sounds. The intensity (loudness) of sound is measured in decibels. The tone (speed of sound wave vibrations) is measured in cycles per second. The standard battery of hearing tests varies depending on whether the patient is an infant, child or adult.

Behind-the-ear (BTE): hearing aids consist of a hard plastic case worn behind the ear and connected to a plastic earmold that fits inside the outer ear. The electronic parts are held in the case behind the ear. Sound travels from the hearing aid through the earmold and into the ear. BTE aids are used by people of all ages for mild to profound hearing loss.

Completely in the ear canal (CIC): is molded to fit inside your ear canal. It improves mild to moderate hearing loss in adults.

Canal aids: fit into the ear canal and are available in two styles. The in-the-canal (ITC) hearing aid is made to fit the size and shape of a person’s ear canal. A completely-in-canal (CIC) hearing aid is nearly hidden in the ear canal. Both types are used for mild to moderately severe hearing loss.

Digital aids: convert sound waves into numerical codes, similar to the binary code of a computer, before amplifying them. This technology is more flexible with options for fine tuning the hearing aid to the member’s hearing needs by the audiologist and user.

Digital hybrid hearing aids: have both analog technology for sound processing and digital technology for programming. Hybrid aids offer more options for the audiologist and user to adjust the “channels” to meet a variety of listening environments.

Hearing assistive (per House Bill 1404) technology systems are devices used with or without hearing aids or cochlear implants to improve the ability of a user with hearing loss to hear in various
listening situations, such as being located a distance from a speaker, in an environment with competing background noise or in a room with poor acoustics or reverberation.

**Hearing impairment (deafness/hearing loss):** A reduction in the ability to perceive sound that is classified as mild, moderate, severe or profound.

**Hearing loss:** is described as conductive, sensorineural, or mixed, and can be unilateral or bilateral. The American Speech - Language - Hearing Association (ASHA) has defined the degree of hearing loss based on pure-tone average (PTA). The PTA is the average air-conduction threshold for 1000 and 2000 Hz, and 3000 Hz measured with an earphone. Normal hearing is the detection of sound at or below 20 decibels (dB).

**Hearing assistive (per House Bill 1404) technology systems** are devices used with or without hearing aids or cochlear implants to improve the ability of a user with hearing loss to hear in various listening situations, such as being located a distance from a speaker, in an environment with competing background noise or in a room with poor acoustics or reverberation.

**In-the-ear (ITE):** hearing aids fit completely inside the outer ear and are used for mild to severe hearing loss. The case holding the electronic components is made of hard plastic. Some ITE aids may have certain added features installed, such as a telecoil. A telecoil is a small magnetic coil that allows users to receive sound through the circuitry of the hearing aid, rather than through its microphone. This makes it easier to hear conversations over the telephone. A telecoil also helps people hear in public facilities that have installed special sound systems, called induction loop systems. Induction loop systems can be found in many churches, schools, airports, and auditoriums. ITE aids usually are not worn by young children because the casings need to be replaced often as the ear grows.

**In the canal (ITC):** hearing aid is custom molded and fits partly in the ear canal. This style can improve mild to moderate hearing loss in adults.

**Open fit:** An open-fit hearing aid is a variation of the behind-the-ear hearing aid with a thin tube. This style keeps the ear canal very open, allowing for low-frequency sounds to enter the ear naturally and for high-frequency sounds to be amplified through the hearing aid. This makes the style a good choice for people with mild to moderate hearing loss.

**Pure tone average (PTA):** Average air conduction threshold measured with an earphone.

**Receiver in canal or receiver in the ear:** The receiver-in-canal (RIC) and receiver-in-the-ear (RITE) styles are similar to a behind-the-ear hearing aid with the speaker or receiver in the canal or in the ear. A tiny wire, rather than tubing, connects the pieces.

**Traditional hearing aid:** A non-implanted, non-disposable on-ear or in-ear device that is FDA approved and dispensed only by prescription.

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**Related Policies**

Case Manager Determinations on Non-coverage

Cochlear Implantation
References


https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing-aids

Appendix

Policy Number: [Policy Number]

Effective: 1/1/2020          Next review: 1/1/2021

Policy type: Commercial

Depts: Health Services

Applicable regulation(s): OAR 836-053-0012(3) (C), OAR 836-053-1404 ORS 743A.140; ORS 743A.141

External entities affected: N/A